

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069433

FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SA, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY'S MESSAGE TO KING

1. CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY HAS REQUESTED AMBASSADOR WEST'S GOOD OFFICES IN RELAYING A MESSAGE FROM FINDLEY TO KING KHALID. AMBASSADOR REQUESTS THAT YOU RELAY TO SAG THIS MESSAGE, MAKING ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT IT REFLECTS CONGRESSMAN'S PERSONAL VIEW AND IN NO WAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A REFLECTION OF THE OFFICIAL VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

2. MESSAGE FOLLOWS: QUOTE

IT IS A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY, I FEEL, THAT THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISH A DIPLOMATIC MISSION AT ADEN. I CALL THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS MAJESTY BECAUSE I KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OUR GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE VIEWS OF HIS MAJESTY ON THIS QUESTION.

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AS YOU KNOW I HAVE HAD AN ACQUAINTANCE WITH PRESIDENT SALIM RUBYA'I ALI SINCE 1974 AND THIS PAST JANUARY HAD A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH HIM IN ADEN. I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE DESIRE OF PRESIDENT ALI TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, AND I WAS CONVINCED THAT

HE IS READY TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

IN FACT, HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS THEN AWAITING A STATE DEPARTMENT TEAM'S ARRIVAL IN ADEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT. THE TEAM HAS NOT BEEN SENT, PENDING WORD FROM HIS MAJESTY.

A UNITED STATES MISSION IN ADEN CAN SUPPLEMENT AND SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SAUDI MISSION THERE. IT CAN BECOME A POINT OF INFORMATION AND INFLUENCE USEFUL TO BOTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS. IT IS ESSENTIAL, I FEEL, THAT WE WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IN ADEN TO MONITOR SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THAT REGION AND SEEK TO COUNTERBALANCE SOVIET INFLUENCE THERE.

I NEED NOT BELABOR THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OBJECTIVE TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST AND THAT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA. FAILURE TO EXERT EVERY PRUDENT EFFORT TO COMBAT SOVIET INFLUENCE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ENTRY TO THE RED SEA WOULD CONNOTE A FAILURE FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. WE WOULD BE CONCEDED TO THE SOVIET UNION A CONSIDERABLE STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL BOTH TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO SAUDI ARABIA.

I WISH TO CONVEY TO HIS MAJESTY MY DEEP HOPE THAT HE WILL VERY QUICKLY MAKE A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE UNITED STATES SEEK TO ESTABLISH A MISSION IN ADEN. A DELAY OF EVEN A FEW WEEKS COULD BE CRUCIAL TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW MISSION. THE SOVIET-CUBAN POSITION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATED IN ETHIOPIA, AND NOW THIS COMBINATION WILL LIKELY BEGIN PROBING ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION.

THE CHALLENGE AT ADEN REQUIRES THE BEST DIPLOMATIC TALENT OF BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES, AND THE CHALLENGE IS URGENT.

PLEASE ASSURE HIS MAJESTY THAT I WRITE AS A CONSISTENT FRIEND OF SAUDI ARABIA, AS MY VOTING RECORD TESTIFIES.

SINCERELY YOURS,

PAUL FINDLEY
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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